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Oxfordshire County Council

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

County Health Services

PART II

Report of the

County Medical Officer

H. C. JENNINGS

M.A., B.Sc. (Oxon), M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.

1939

G. Bryan & Co. Binsey Lane, Oxford

Oxfordshire County Council

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My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present an interim Annual Report on the health services of the County for the year 1939, in accordance with Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health, dated July 19th, 1940. The Report, therefore, consists solely of a record of the work done in order that there may be a continuity of statistical returns, etc., during the war.

During the year the Staff of the Health Department has been required to undertake many additional duties of an important nature, for example, Emergency Hospital Services, A.R.P. Medical Services, including the storage, distribution and maintenance of large quantities of medical stores and equipment, and work in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Department, in co-operation with the City Health Department, has set up, and maintained work in connection with the Civil Nursing Reserve, and has also organized and maintained a Casualty Bureau. Many problems have arisen in connection with the Emergency Hospital Services, and close co-operation with Sir Robert McCarrison, the Group Hospital Officer has been maintained.

Members of the Staff have undertaken regular night duty, either in the Control or Message Rooms at the County Hall, and I should like to thank them all for the splendid way in which they have supported me during these difficult times.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. JENNINGS.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

(*a*) General Statistics.

Area (acres), 470,808.

Population (Census 1931), 129,082.

Population (Estimated mid-1939), { for birth rate 137,660. / for death rate 142,530. }

Number of inhabited houses (1931), 50,638.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1931), 52,838.

Average number of persons per 100 acres (1939), 30.

Rateable value for whole County (April 1st, 1935), £661,468.

Estimated product of penny rate for whole County (1939-1940) £2760.

(*b*) Social Conditions.

The County is mainly agricultural, but a considerable number of persons employed at works situated within the City of Oxford reside in villages around the City, within a radius of approximately ten miles. There are furniture, cabinet and box factories at Banbury and iron and aluminium works in the neighbourhood of this town.

Gloving is carried on in Woodstock, Charlbury and Witney districts, whilst blanket making is an important industry at Witney. There are cement works at Shipton-on-Cherwell and Chinnor.

(*c*) Extracts From Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births	*Total*	*M.*	*F.*
Legitimate	2025	1025	1000
Illegitimate	91	54	37
	2116	1079	1037

Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15.3 (16.0).

Stillbirths. Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 39.5 (35.1).
M. 46 F. 42 T. 86

Deaths. Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population, 12.0 (12.9).

	Deaths	*Rate per* 1000 *total* (*live and still*) *births*
Puerperal sepsis	1 (–)	.44
Other puerperal causes	1 (2)	.44
Total	2	.88

The maternal death rate per 1000 of total live births is .93 (1.37).

Death rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1000 live births	38.8	(34.6)
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	36.1	(32.8)
Ilegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	44	(66)
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0	
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	2	
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	

There were 34 deaths due to Influenza ; 5 to Diphtheria ; 2 to Encephalitis Lethargica.

(Figures in brackets are those for year 1938.)

Birth Rate. This rate is a decrease as compared with the previous year, the figures being 15.2 and 16.0 respectively. The corresponding figure for England and Wales for 1939 is 15.0.

The illegitimate births number 4 per cent of the total births for the year.

Death Rate. This rate remains approximately the same as compared with 1938, the figures being 12.1 and 12.0 respectively. The corresponding figure for England and Wales for 1938 is 12.1.

Infant Mortality Rate. It is satisfactory to record that this rate still remains very low, the figure for 1939 being 36.4. The figure for England and Wales as a whole for 1939 is 50. It is a matter for congratulation that the infant mortality rate in Oxfordshire continues to be one of the lowest in the country.

The rate for illegitimate births was only slightly higher than for legitimate births, the figures being 44 and 36.

General. There was a further decrease in the number of women dying from conditions directly associated with Childbirth (including sepsis), the numbers for 1937, 1938 and 1939 being 5, 3 and 2 respectively. The maternal mortality rate therefore for 1939 was .88 as compared with 2.82 for England and Wales.

Cancer. The total number of deaths from cancer recorded during the year was 250, which number is 14.4 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes. The rate for 1939 was 1.75 as compared with 1.7 for 1938 and 1.66 for England and Wales for 1938. This slight difference in the County rate as compared with that for England and Wales may be due in part to the fact that in Oxfordshire 33 per cent of the total population are 45 years of age or over, whereas in England and Wales as a whole the figure for the same section of the population is 30 per cent.

Deaths from Cancer.

Urban Districts.

	0	1	2	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	8	11	2
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	14	11	8

Rural Districts.

	0	1	2	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75
Males ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	7	20	33	32
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	12	13	25	29

Facilities for treatment by radium are available at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Table Showing the Chief Killing Diseases in Oxfordshire During 1939.

Disease	*Total number of deaths*
Heart Disease	470
Cancer	250
Cerebral haemorrhage	112
Pneumonia (all forms)	73
Tuberculosis (all forms)	60
Bronchitis	52

The total number of deaths from violence (other than suicide) which were 81, would if inserted in this table, occupy fourth place.

Vital Statistics of whole County during 1939 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
				Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate per 1000 of population.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate per 1000 of population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1926	134,550 134,340*	2,311	17·1	110	47	1,671	12·4
1927	136,310 136,100*	2,079	15·2	103	49	1,760	12·9
1928	137,800 137,000*	2,265	16·4	86	37·9	1,634	11·9
1929	125,680 125,020*	2,037	15·7	105	51	1,831	14·2
1930	127,200 126,610*	1,979	15·5	76	38	1,563	12·3
1931	128,490 127,950*	1,918	15·8	59	30·7	1,586	12·3
1932	130,580	1,850	14·1	75	40·5	1,624	12·4
1933	130,950	1,855	14·1	76	40·9	1,648	12·5
1934	131,300	1,880	14·3	72	38·2	1,638	12·4(10.1)†
1935	131,400	1,938	14·6	75	38·1	1,583	12·0 (9·8)†
1936	132,550	1,920	14·4	83	43·2	1,627	12·2(10.00)†
1937	133,660	2,051	15·3	87	42·4	1,725	12·9 (10.5)†
1938	135,200	2,167	16·0	75	34·6	1,635	12·0 (9.78)†
1939	B.R. **142,530** D.R. **137,660**	**2,116**	**15·2**	**78**	**36·4**	**1,727**	**12·1** (9·8)†

* This is an estimate of the civil population and the death rate is calculated upon it. The birth rate is calculated on the higher estimate.

† A corrected rate having been adjusted for age and sex distribution.

Table showing vital statistics for 1939 of each Urban District in the County.

	Population estimated to middle of 1939.	Nett Births.			Nett Deaths belonging to the District.					
		Number.		Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			
					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rates.		
		For I.M.	For B.R.						Crude Rate.	Corrected Rate.
Banbury	*16010 16510	259	257	16·0	14	54	190	11·5	10·5	·90
Bicester	*3406 3512	62	63	18·4	—	—	39	11·1	8·4	·76
Chipping Norton	*3338 3512	34	34	10·1	2	58	47	13·3	9·5	·72
Henley	*7075 7479	103	101	14·2	3	29	115	15·4	12·5	·82
Thame	*3085 3259	45	45	14·5	—	—	49	15·0	10·5	·70
Witney	*5453 5585	73	72	9·9	1	13	56	10·0	9·2	·92
Woodstock	*1593 1673	33	33	14·3	2	60	21	12·5	8·5	·68

The death rates "at all ages" are given under two headings "crude" and "corrected." The variations in the crude rates are due not to mortality alone but to differences in population constitution. The corrected rates give the death rates adjusted for age and sex distribution; and are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General. * For the calculation of Birth Rate.

Table showing vital statistics for 1939 of each Rural District in the County.

	Population estimated to middle of 1939.	Nett Births.			Nett Deaths belonging to the District.				
		Number.		Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		
					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rates.	
		For I.M.	For B.R.					Crude Rate.	Corrected Rate.
Banbury	*12870 13240	167	167	15·3	7	40	198	14·9	7·4
Bullingdon	*25040 25880	467	461	18·1	12	25	257	9·9	8·2
Chipping Norton	*14200 14580	183	177	13·9	8	43	183	12·5	8·2
Henley	*14720 15890	198	195	12·7	9	45	174	10·9	8·5
Ploughley	*13890 14070	254	253	17·3	11	43	182	12·9	8·2
Witney	*16980 17340	259	258	18·3	9	34	216	12·4	7·9

The death rates "at all ages" are given under two headings "crude" and "corrected." The variations in the crude rates are due not to mortality alone but to differences in population constitution. The corrected rates give the death rates adjusted for age and sex distribution; and are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General. * For the calculation of Birth Rates.

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the Administrative County of Oxford, 1939.

Causes of Death.	TOTAL.	SEX.	AGGREGATE OF URBAN DISTRICTS.												AGGREGATE OF RURAL DISTRICTS.											
			All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 35 years.	35 and under 45 years.	45 and under 55 years.	55 and under 65 years.	65 and under 75 years.	75 and upwards	**All ages.**	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 35 years.	35 and under 45 years.	45 and under 55 years.	55 and under 65 years.	65 and under 75 years.	75 and upwards.
All causes	1727	M		11	4	—	3	12	8	10	26	39	76	61	18	30	4	2	8	18	16	18	42	96	160	217
		F		11	1	2	4	5	5	11	19	35	67	107	181	26	4	3	4	10	15	21	49	57	137	273
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	3	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	5	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	38	M	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	11	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	3	2
		F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	20	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	3	4	8
Encephalitis lethargica	2	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	51	M	10	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	2	1	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	4	4	1	1
		F	9	—	—	—	1	2	1	4	—	1	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	1	—	—	1
Other tuberculous diseases	9	M	3	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	2	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	2	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	250	M	30	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	8	11	2	95	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	7	20	33	32
		F	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	14	11	8	40	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	12	13	25	29
Diabetes	35	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
		F	9	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	4	2	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	10	3
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	112	M	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	8	4	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	8	14
		F	17	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6	6	3	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	13	28
Heart disease	470	M	59	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	7	22	24	153	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	6	19	60	65
		F	88	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8	23	53	170	—	—	—	2	1	2	4	9	12	41	99
Aneurysm	3	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other circulatory diseases	124	M	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	12	8	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	12	28
		F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	6	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	12	26
Bronchitis	52	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	3	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	13
		F	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	21	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	13
Pneumonia (all forms)	73	M	13	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	2	21	3	—	2	1	1	—	—	2	2	6	4
		F	11	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	6	28	5	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	5	4	9
Other respiratory diseases	18	M	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—
Peptic ulcer	13	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	101	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	2
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Diarrhœa, &c.	8	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
		F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Appendicitis	5	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Cirrhosis of liver	2	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of liver, &c.	3	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	18	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
		F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	54	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	21	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	2	9	3	2
		F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	4	7
Puerperal sepsis	1	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes	1	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, &c.	53	M	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	24	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Senility	92	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	25
		F	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	36
Suicide	21	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	4	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Other violence	81	M	19	1	—	—	3	6	2	—	2	4	1	—	37	—	—	—	3	7	4	3	7	9	1	3
		F	6	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	19	1	1	—	1	2	1	3	—	2	3	5
Other defined diseases	124	M	17	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	6	2	53	1	—	—	2	3	1	1	4	8	19	14
		F	21	—	—	1	1	1	—	3	3	4	3	5	31	3	—	—	1	2	—	3	5	3	6	8
Causes ill-defined or unknown	3	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Smallpox.

No case of the disease occurred during the year.

Scarlet fever.

The number of cases notified was 163 as compared with 119 in the previous year.

Diphtheria.

This disease was prevalent during the year, 78 cases being notified as compared with 57 in 1938. There were five deaths from diphtheria.

Enteric fever.

There was 1 case of this disease notified during the year. No deaths occurred.

Pneumonia (all forms).

72 cases of pneumonia were notified during the year.

Erysipelas.

21 cases were notified.

Measles.

This disease was made notifiable during the year. Two deaths were registered during the year, the same as in the previous year.

Whooping cough.

Three deaths. This disease was made notifiable during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

3 cases were notified during 1939.

Cases Notified	*Treated at home*	*Treated in hospital*	*Vision unimpaired*	*Vision impaired*	*Total blindness*	*Deaths*
3	0	3	3	0	0	0

Puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia.

Disease	*No. of Cases notified during the year*	*No. of Cases visited by Officers of Council*	*No. of Cases removed to Hospital*
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	13	3

There was one death from puerperal sepsis.

During the year the number of schools closed for infectious diseases were :—

Whooping Cough	4 schools.
Influenza	5 schools.
Scarlet Fever	1 school.
Chicken Pox	—
Diphtheria	3 schools.
Mumps	—
Measles	1 school.
Poliomyelitis	—
Conjunctivitis	1 school.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following is the report for the year of the Inspector of Midwives:

The number of midwives notifying their intention to practice during the year was 114. The number of cases of midwifery attended by midwives in the County was 1469.

The following notifications were received from midwives :—

Still births	25
Deaths	11
Laying-out of the dead	17
Contact with infectious disease	27
Artificial feeding of infants advised	17

Records of sending for medical help (as under) :—

Pregnancy.

Ante-partum haemorrhage	13
Abortion and threatened abortion	10
Swelling of legs	—
Albumen	15
Miscarriage	31
Other conditions	40

Labour.

Mal-presentation	20
Retained placenta	15
Ruptured perineum	198
Delay in labour	90
Excessive Bleeding	8
Other conditions	70

Lying In.

Rise in temperature	15
Other conditions	19

Child.

Dangerous Feebleness	32
Infection of Eyes	20
Stillbirth	6
Congenital malformation	6
Other conditions	14
	699

15 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified. 9 midwives were temporarily suspended owing to having been in attendance upon cases of infectious disease.

The Inspector paid 415 visits for routine inspection of midwives to observe their methods of practice and examine appliances and registers. 94 other visits were paid.

Midwifery.

Fees earned by the County Council Midwife at Henley-on-Thames amounted during the year to £114 17s. 4d. Her services are given without charge to persons unable to afford payment of the fees. Fees amounting to £824 0s. 4d. were paid to medical practitioners called in to assist midwives in emergency. Contributions from patients, amounting to £151 7s. 7d. were collected towards the cost. Hospital provision for maternity is made by the Radcliffe Infirmary at their hospital in Walton Street, Oxford. For the north of the County accommodation is available at the Warwickshire County Council Maternity Hospital at Leamington ; and for the South of the County at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. Arrangements have also been made with local hospitals to accept cases in emergency.

The Council contributed £750 per annum towards the cost of treatment at the Radcliffe Infirmary Maternity Home.

Home Helps were provided on seven occasions.

Domiciliary Ante-natal and Post-natal Scheme.

During the year 830 women were examined under this cheme. Consultants were provided for three difficult cases. Payment for dental extractions was made in one case when, as a result of ante-natal examination, the medical practitioner considered such treatment advisable. 180 post-natal examinations were made.

Maternal Mortality.

I have to record that the number of maternal deaths during the year was 2 as compared with 3 in the previous year.

The rate per 1000 live births is .93 as compared with 1.37 for 1938. The corresponding rate for England and Wales for 1939 was 2.93.

All deaths of mothers were carefully inquired into during the year. The services of a consultant in cases of difficult labour are available, and his services were made use of in 6 cases. Sterilized maternity outfits were provided for women where in the opinion of the Health Visitor or midwife in attendance such provision was desirable.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The County Council is the Local Supervisory Authority under the Nursing Homes Registration Act 1927. There were 8 homes on the register at the end of the year of which 7 were Maternity Homes.

Year 1939.

Number of applications for registration (withdrawn) ...	1
Number of Homes registered	nil
Number of Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	nil
Number of appeals against such orders	nil
Number of applications for exemptions from registration ...	nil
Number of cases in which exemption has been granted ...	nil

No application has been made to the County Council by a County District Council for the delegation of powers.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

There are now 29 centres in the county, one new one being opened during the year at Rose Hill, a new Estate on the boundary of the City of Oxford. A complete report of the work done at the centres is appended on page 13 and from this it will be seen that 605 meetings were held during the year and that the following attendances were made—

Infants under 1 year	9418
Infants 1—5 years	10065
Total	19483

whilst the number of infants attending for the first time was—

Under 1 year	1146
1—5 years	451
	1597

Ninety-three lectures and films were given on Mothercraft and other subjects.

Hospital treatment continues to be provided under the County Infant Welfare Scheme. 8 children were treated at Burford Cottage Hospital at a cost of £15 15s. 0d. 16 children received in-patient treatment at the Wingfield-Morris Hospital at a cost of £348 3s. 6d. 2 children suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum were treated at the Oxford Eye Hospital. 41 children under five years of age were examined by an Ophthalmic Surgeon and glasses were provided in 34 cases.

Infant Welfare Centres.

Name of Centre	No. of Meetings	Attendances Infants under 1 yr.	Attendances Infants under 1-5 yrs.	No. of Infants attending for the first time under 1 yr.	No. of Infants attending for the first time under 1-5 yrs.	Doctor present	Lecture given
Adderbury	24	339	440	42	14	22	3
Bampton	22	230	346	25	4	22	3
Benson	22	236	221	19	17	21	7
Bicester	26	473	379	63	11	20	1
Burford	22	247	183	32	31	22	—
Charlbury	22	270	365	37	36	22	16
Chinnor	23	237	261	24	10	23	5
Chipping Norton	21	359	273	28	8	19	—
Deddington	12	140	231	26	9	11	—
Dorchester	21	288	413	23	12	21	—
Eynsham	22	446	594	46	23	22	—
Filkins	21	97	160	12	5	21	4
Goring	22	350	406	31	15	22	3
Great Milton	11	71	123	18	16	11	—
Handborough	21	217	330	14	2	21	3
Henley	29	549	580	79	12	28	4
Kidlington	20	379	492	50	24	20	3
Kidmore End	11	138	123	31	6	11	2
Kirtlington	23	152	140	20	5	10	2
Littlemore	21	570	329	96	37	21	6
Milton-u-Wychwood	21	306	265	23	21	21	14
Stoke Row	11	144	181	30	6	11	1
Thame	20	243	393	37	11	20	4
Watlington	11	99	114	13	10	11	10
Wheatley	22	263	231	47	21	22	—
Witney	22	655	932	96	19	22	—
Woodstock	24	631	732	57	19	22	1
Sandhills	50	1079	619	89	22	25	1
Rose Hill	18	210	209	38	35	10	—
	605	9418	10065	1146	451	554	93

Health Visitors.

There are now seventeen health visitors, including 3 temporary ones. The health visitors are whole-time officers of the County Council and the majority have been in the service of the Council for many years. Their experience is invaluable.

The following visits were paid by Health Visitors in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme—

Visits to expectant mothers	1,266
Visits to children under 1 year	19,528
Visits to children between 1—5 years	17,529

Public Health Act, 1936.

Infant Life Protection.

The number of children on the register at the end of the year was 128. 877 visits to children were paid by the Health Visitors.

Adoption of Children Act, 1926.

The Superintendent Health Visitor acted as guardian *ad litem* in 15 cases. Adoption orders were made in all cases.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Counties of Oxfordshire and Berkshire and the City of Oxford continue the Agreement with the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary whereby free treatment is given to all applicants at the Infirmary. The total cost to the Infirmary is divided in respect of out-patients' treatment in proportion to the attendances made by patients from the areas of the three authorities and as regards in-patients' treatment in accordance with the number of days on which beds are occupied by such patients.

An agreement has also been entered into with the Royal Berkshire Hospital for the treatment of Oxfordshire patients.

Each authority pays the cost of the pathological examinations of its own patients.

Return relating to all persons who were treated at the Treatment Centre at Oxford during the year ended the 31st December, 1939.

	Totals		
	M.	F.	Totals
Number of Cases on 1st January under treatment or observation	32	21	53
Number of Cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report known to have received treatment for the same infection, or to have been under observation, at other Centres	2	1	3
Number of Cases discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal	19	36	55
Number of Cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December	24	23	47
Total Attendances	510	476	986
(*a*) for individual attention of the medical officer(s)	359	476	835
(*b*) for intermediate treatment, e.g., irrigation, dressing	151		151
	510	476	986
In-patients :—			
(*a*) Total number of persons admitted for treatment during the year	12	1	13
(*b*) Aggregate number of " In-patient " days of treatment given	211	11	222
Pathological Work :—			
Number of specimens examined at, and by the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre,			
for Syphilis			94
for Gonorrhea			126

TUBERCULOSIS.

(Report by DR. N. J. ENGLAND.)

Vital Statistics. The incidence of tuberculosis as shown by notifications and deaths is demonstrated in the following table :—

New Cases					*Deaths*				
Age Groups	*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Age Groups*	*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	–	–	–	1	0—	–	–	–	1
1—	2	–	5	2	1—	–	–	–	–
5—	1	1	8	5	2—	–	–	1	1
10—	1	2	3	2	5—	–	–	1	2
15—	6	3	–	4	15—	4	4	–	1
20—	7	6	2	3					
25—	21	9	3	4	25—	8	2	–	–
35—	12	3	1	2	35—	2	1	–	–
45—	9	11	–	–	45—	10	3	–	–
55—	3	–	–	–	55—	4	2	–	–
65—	1	–	–	2	65—	1	1	–	–
					75—	–	–	–	1
Totals	63	35	22	25		29	13	2	6

There is a rise in the number of notifications of pulmonary disease—98 as compared with 87 in 1938 ; non-pulmonary cases total 47 as compared with 33 in 1938. The latter rise is probably due to improved notification, the result of the Bovine tuberculosis survey being carried out.

The death rates and comparisons are, per 100,000 living :—

	1938	1939	*England and Wales* 1939
Pulmonary	31	35	53
Non-pulmonary ...	6	6	10
Combined	37	42	63.5

Five of a total of fifty deaths, a ratio of one in ten, died un-notified. Three of these were cases of meningitis. Of the total number of cases notified during the year eight died within one month of notification and seven other pulmonary cases died within six months of notification.

The following table shows the number of deaths and rates per 100,000 living in the County since 1912 :—

	Pulmonary		*All forms*	
	Number	*Rate per* 100,000	*Number*	*Rate per* 100,000
1912	103	75	130	94
1913	97	70	126	91
1914	104	75	130	93
1915	113	89	141	117
1916	112	92	150	123
1917	168	144	195	168
1918	142	119	162	135
1919	105	84	137	109
1920	90	69	107	82
1921	99	75	121	92
1922	97	73	113	85
1923	89	66	108	81
1924	86	64	107	79
1925	72	53	96	71
1926	82	61	95	70
1927	99	72	118	86
1928	67	48	85	62
1929	91	70	107	83
1930	73	57	94	74
1931	61	47	74	57
1932	64	49	71	54
1933	63	48	77	58
1934	54	41	66	50
1935	54	41	70	53
1936	56	42	72	54
1937	38	28	51	38
1938	42	31.1	50	37
1939	**51**	**35.7**	**60**	**42**
Ten year period average—				
1911-20	114	89	142	111
1921-30	85	64	104	78

It will be seen that the low death rate recorded in 1937 has been maintained. The significance of the rise in the notifications, however, must not be forgotten.

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS. RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1939.

A. Return showing the work of the Dispensaries

Diagnosis	Pulmonary						Non-Pulmonary						Total						Grand Total
	E.	Adults. M.	Adults. F.	E. Children. M.	E. Children. F.		E.	Adults. M.	Adults. F.	E. Children. M.	E. Children. F.		E.	Adults. M.	Adults. F.	E. Children. M.	E. Children. F.		
A.—New Cases examined during the year (excluding contacts) :—																			
(a) Definitely tuberculous	2	35	26	—	1	2	—	9	3	—	10	4	2	44	29	—	11	6	92
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	14	5	3	1	36
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	66	74	7	38	33	218=346
B.—Contacts examined during the year :—																			
(a) Definitely tuberculous	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	4	2	2	14
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	61	6	51	51	189=204
C.—Cases written off the Dispensary Register as :—																			
(a) Recovered	—	5	13	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	3	1	—	5	18	—	3	1	27 7
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	87	136	—	94	93	410=437
D.—Number of Cases on Register on December 31st, 1939 :—																			
(a) Definitely tuberculous	15	142	108	6	10	2	1	28	31	1	41	22	16	170	139	7	51	24	407
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50=457

1.	Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st.	384	E=23
2.	Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years	27	24
3.	Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme and cases " lost sight of "	62	7
4.	Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes)	45	
5.	Number of attendances at dispensaries	916	
6.	Number of consultations—personal	57	
7.	Number of Visits by Tuberculosis Officer	489	
8.	Number of Visits by Health Visitors	1463	
9.	Number of specimens of sputum examined	251	
10.	Number of X-rays in connection with Dispensary work	390	
11.	Number of " T.B. plus cases " on Dispensary register on December 31st	148	

E=Evacuees

BLIND PERSONS ACTS 1920 to 1938.

161 persons were relieved during the year at a cost of £3895.

Blind Persons in Oxfordshire.

Age-period	*Total Blind.*
0- 5	0
5-16	3
16-21	3
21-40	14
40-50	16
50-65	40
65-70	37
70 upwards	99
Unknown	1
	213

Age at which Blindness occurred.

Age-period	*Number*
0- 5	19
5-10	7
10-20	5
20-30	12
30-40	14
40-50	21
50-60	32
60-70	50
70 upwards	41
Unknown	12
	213

VACCINATION.

Work in connection with vaccination is administered through the County Health Department.

The following table shows that in 1939 only 28.2 per cent of the total number of children whose births were registered during the year were vaccinated.

Vaccination District	*Births reported during* 1939	*Successful Vaccinations*	*Conscientious objections*	*Died Removals*
Banbury North	306	45	232	20
Banbury South	100	22	73	3
Bullingdon 1	192	69	102	2
Bullingdon 2	193	70	102	1
Chipping Norton	197	33	129	5
Henley	235	102	106	7
Ploughley	305	58	242	3
Witney	409	147	185	11
	1937	546	1171	52

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION ORDER) 1936—1938.

196 Accredited licences were in force at the end of the year. There were a further 88 "Tuberculin Tested" licences in force, 22 of these also holding a licence to bottle the milk at the place of production. Three licences were revoked during the year and one licence was suspended.

CARE OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS 1913 to 1938.

Mental Deficiency Acts Committee.

During the year ended 31st December, 1939, 33 (18 male and 15 female) new cases were ascertained.

The 33 new cases were dealt with as follows :—

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Admitted to Certified Institutions	11	8	19
Placed under Guardianship ...	3	1	4
,, ,, Statutory Supervision	1	—	1
,, ,, Voluntary ,,	3	6	9
	18	15	33

The number of defectives ascertained by the Council to be subject to be dealt with or who might have become subject to be dealt with on 31st December, 1939, was 742. The ratio of ascertained cases per 1,000 of the population of Oxfordshire, is 4.6.

Institutional Accommodation.

On 31st December 1939, there were 95 persons detained under Order in Institutions, distributed as follows :—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Borocourt	15	31	46
Billericay	1	—	1
Buntingford	4	—	4
Chipping Norton	13	14	27
Easthampstead	1	—	1
Hortham Colony	2	—	2
Manor House, Aylesbury	1	3	4
Mount Olivet, Frensham	1	—	1
Rock Hall House, Bath	1	—	1
Royal Earlswood	2	—	2
St. Joseph's Home, Sheffield ...	—	1	1
Stoke Park Colony	2	3	5
	43	52	95

During the year ended 31*st December*, 1939.

No. of Orders made under the Mental Deficiency Acts ...		23
Of whom (*a*) admitted to Institutions	19	
(*b*) placed under guardianship	4	
	23	
No. of Varying Orders		1
No. of Orders by Secretary of State under Mental Deficiency Acts 1913, Section 9		—
No. of urgent cases admitted temporarily to Places of Safety		—
Notifications by County Education Authority		6
Notifications by Banbury Education Authority		—